

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims currently pending in the present application:

1. (Currently amended) A housing member for housing an elongate material, the housing member comprising:

a base, said base having an opening extending along a longitudinal direction of the housing member and a plurality of convex portions arranged at predetermined pitches along said longitudinal direction, each of the convex portions extending along a circumferential direction of said base; and

a cover for covering the opening of said base, said cover comprising a plurality of convex portions arranged at predetermined pitches along said longitudinal direction, each of the convex portions of the cover extending along a circumferential direction of the cover, the arranged pitch of the convex portions of said base and the arranged pitch of the convex portions of said cover being the same or having a relationship of an integral multiple, and wherein, when said cover is assembled to said base, the convex portions of said cover and the convex portions of said base are fitted to each other so as to be overlaid on each other, and one of width of the convex portion of said cover and being wider than width of the convex portion of said base is wider than the other one with respect to a longitudinal direction of the housing member,

wherein fitted portions are provided at both ends of each of the convex portions of said base, and fitting portions are provided at both ends of each of the convex portions of said cover, wherein, when said cover is assembled to said base, each of the fitting portions of said cover is fitted on an outer side of the corresponding fitted portion of said base so as to be overlaid on each other,

wherein the housing member has a substantially rectangular cross-sectional shape when said cover is assembled to said base,

wherein a cross-sectional shape of said each of the fitted portions is smaller than a cross-sectional shape of the corresponding convex portion so that an abutting step portion is formed at a border portion between said each of the fitted portions and the corresponding convex portion, wherein, when each of the fitting portions of said cover is fitted on the outer side of the corresponding fitted portion of said base, an end surface of said each of the fitting portions abuts on the corresponding abutting step portion.

2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) The housing member according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein a locking projection is provided at an inner side of said each of the fitting portions, and a locked projection capable of being locked at the locking projection of the corresponding fitting portion is provided at ~~an~~ the outer side of said each of the fitted portions.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Withdrawn) The housing member according to claim 1, wherein an approximately U-shaped reinforcement tool is disposed in at least one of an inner concave portion which is formed inside each of the convex portions of said base and an outer concave portion which is formed between a pair of adjacent convex portions of said cover.
8. (Withdrawn) The housing member according to claim 7, wherein said reinforcement tools are placed respectively in both of each of the inner concave portions of said base and each of the outer concave portions of said cover.
9. (Original) The housing member according to claim 1, wherein the convex portions of said cover and the convex portions of said base are fitted to each other so as to prevent said cover from being displaced along the longitudinal direction of the housing member with respect to said base.
10. (Original) The housing member according to claim 1, wherein in a portion at which the convex portion of said cover and the convex portion of said base are overlaid on each other, restraining means for restraining said cover from being detached from said base is

provided between the convex portion of said cover and convex portion of said base.

11. (Original) The housing member according to claim 10, wherein said cover and said base each comprise a pair of side walls opposed to each other along the longitudinal direction of the cover and the base, and said restraining means includes a bulged base portion which is formed by bulging the side wall of said base outward, and a cover bulged portion which is formed by bulging the side wall of said cover outward to be capable of being fitted on the bulged base portion.
12. (Original) The housing member according to claim 1, wherein said elongate material is a cable which is laid inside a building.
13. (Original) The housing member according to claim 1, wherein said elongate material is a fluid pipe which is laid indoors or outdoors and allows a flow of a fluid.
14. (Original) The housing member according to claim 1, wherein said base is fixed to a structure constructed in a building.
15. (Currently amended) A housing member for housing an elongate material, said housing member comprising a cylindrical molded product made of a resin, wherein the cylindrical molded product has annular convex portions arranged at predetermined pitches along a longitudinal direction of the housing member, and has been divided into a base and a cover along said longitudinal direction, the base and the cover each have semi-annular convex portions arranged at the said pitches along the longitudinal direction of the housing member, ~~one of~~ width of the semi-annular convex portions of the cover and is wider than width of the semi-annular convex portions of the base ~~is wider than the other one~~ with respect to the longitudinal direction of the housing member, and the cover is assembled to the base so as to cover an opening of the base, and the housing member has substantially rectangular cross-sectional shape when the cover is assembled to the base, ~~the convex portions of the cover and the convex portions of the base are fitted to each other so as to be overlaid on each other~~

wherein fitted portions are provided at both ends of each of the convex portions of said base, and fitting portions are provided at both ends of each of the convex portions of said cover, wherein, when said cover is assembled to said base, each of the fitting portions of said cover is fitted on an outer side of the corresponding fitted portion of said base so as to be overlaid on each other,

wherein a cross-sectional shape of said each of the fitted portions is smaller than a cross-sectional shape of the corresponding convex portion so that an abutting step portion is formed at a border portion between said each of the fitted portions and the corresponding convex portion, wherein, when each of the fitting portions of said cover is fitted on the outer side of the corresponding fitted portion of said base, an end surface of said each of the fitting portions abuts on the corresponding abutting step portion.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing housing member for housing an elongate material, the method comprising:
 - molding a cylindrical intermediate product of resin and including annular convex portions arranged at predetermined pitches along a longitudinal direction thereof and integrally molding a base and a cover with a portion to be cut off therebetween; and
 - dividing said intermediate molded product along its longitudinal direction by cutting said portion to be cut off and obtaining said base and said cover which are separated from each other.
17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 16, wherein said portion to be cut off of said intermediate molded product has a convex portion which is connected to the convex portions of said base and cover and has a smaller cross-sectional shape than cross-sectional shapes of the convex portions.
18. (Withdrawn) A connecting device for use with an elongate material, the connecting device comprising housing members for housing the long material and a connecting tool for connecting said housing members, wherein the housing member has a base and a cover which are assembled to each other, the base and the cover each have convex portions arranged at predetermined pitches along a longitudinal direction of the housing

member, said connecting tool forms an approximately cylindrical shape, connecting ports are provided at both ends in an axial direction of the connecting tool, one end of said housing member is connected to each of the connecting ports, and the connecting tool has a connecting base body and a connecting cover body which are separable to divide said connecting port into two and capable of being assembled to each other; and

displacement preventing means for connecting both the base and the connecting base body by vertically overlaying the base and the connecting base body on each another, and preventing the base and the connecting base body connected to each other from being displaced vertically, provided between said base and connecting base body.

19. (Withdrawn) A connecting tool for connecting housing members for housing an elongate material, wherein the housing member has a base and a cover which are assembled to each other, the base and the cover each have convex portions arranged at predetermined pitches along a longitudinal direction of the housing member, said connecting tool comprising an approximately cylindrical shape, connecting ports provided at both ends in an axial direction of the connecting tool, with one end of said housing member being connected to each of the connecting ports, and the connecting tool having a connecting base body and a connecting cover body which are separable to divide said connecting port into two and capable of being assembled to each other; and

said connecting base body comprises displacement preventing means for connecting both the base and the connecting base body by overlaying the base on the connecting base body, and preventing the base and the connecting base body as connected to each other from being displaced vertically.

20. (Withdrawn) The connecting tool according to claim 19, wherein said displacement preventing means includes a convex line provided at an inner surface of said connecting base body to extend along an axis line of the connecting base body so as to engage with a step portion provided at an outer surface in the vicinity of an opening of said base.

21. (Withdrawn) The connecting tool according to claim 20, wherein in sectional view along a surface perpendicular to the axis line of said connecting base body, said connecting base

body forms an approximately U-shape, and has said convex lines at both end portions thereof.

22. (Withdrawn) The connecting tool according to claim 19, wherein a locking convex line which is locked at the convex portion of said housing member is provided on the inner surface of said connecting base body to extend in the direction perpendicular to the axis line of the connecting base body.
23. (Withdrawn) The connecting tool according to claim 19, wherein said connecting base body and connecting cover body are connected by a hinge to be relatively rotatable.
24. (Withdrawn) A placement structure for a cylindrical housing member having flexibility for housing an elongate material, wherein said housing member has annular convex portions arranged at predetermined pitches along a longitudinal direction of the housing member, said placement structure comprising racks and rail bodies laid on said racks, and said housing member is fixed to the rail body to extend along said rail body.
25. (Withdrawn) The placement structure according to claim 24, further comprising a fixing tool for fixing said housing member to said rail body.
26. (Withdrawn) The placement structure according to claim 24, wherein said housing member comprises a vertically separable base and cover, and said base is fixed on said rail body.
27. (Withdrawn) The placement structure according to claim 24, further comprising a connecting tool for connecting both the adjacent rail bodies, and characterized in that the connecting tool is fixed to said rack.
28. (Withdrawn) A fixing tool for fixing a housing member, which has flexibility and includes a space for housing an elongate material inside, to a rail body laid on a rack, the fixing tool comprising:

a held portion which is held at said rail body; and
a fixing portion facing an upper surface of the rail body to be able to fix said housing member to said rail body in a state in which said held portion is held at said rail body.

29. (Withdrawn) A fixing tool for fixing a housing member for housing an elongate material at a placement section, said housing member having a base and a cover which are assembled to each other, and the base and the cover respectively having convex portions arranged at predetermined pitches along a longitudinal direction of the housing member, said fixing tool comprising:

a body portion fitted into a concave portion provided between both adjacent convex portions of said base;

a locking portion locked at a portion of said base, which does not interfere with mounting and dismounting of said cover to and from the base on an occasion of mounting and dismounting of said cover to and from the base to prevent said base from rising with respect to said placement section; and

a fixing portion fixed to said placement section.

30. (Withdrawn) The fixing tool according to claim 29, wherein:

said body portion comprises:

fitting portions respectively fitted into a plurality of concave portions of said base;

and

an insertion hole in which at least one of the convex portions of said base is able to be inserted.

31. (Withdrawn) The fixing tool according to claim 29, wherein said locking portion is locked at a portion in said base, which is covered with said cover.

32. (Withdrawn) The fixing tool according to claim 31, wherein said locking portion is locked at said base so as to cover end edge portions at both sides of said base.